

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 1715 - HB 1523**

February 2, 2014

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Revises multiple election laws, including but not limited to, the expansion of authority for a county election commission to refuse to appoint a person nominated when certain conditions exist; authorization for a qualified voter to correct a deficient but timely filed mail registration form, if the voter files a completed registration application or otherwise corrects the deficiency no later than five days prior to the next regularly scheduled November election; authorization for candidates required to be an attorney to run for election of any office, rather than a judicial office exclusively; a change to the nominating petition form; redefining “elderly voter” as any voter 60 years of age, rather than 65 years of age; authorization for a county election office to be closed on the Saturday following Good Friday; clarification that it is a Class D felony for any person to vote in the primary elections of more than one political party in an election, rather than on the same day; and requirement that the voter registration section of a driver license application to be processed as an in-person voter registration, rather than a voter registration by mail form.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent this bill is enacted on or before April 11, 2014, there will be a permissive decrease in local government expenditures estimated to be \$19,000 statewide occurring in FY13-14. To the extent this bill is enacted after April 11, 2014, any permissive decrease in local government expenditures for FY13-14 and FY14-15 is considered not significant. The next fiscal year in which a local government could realize a permissive decrease in expenditures would be FY21-22.**

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Correction, this bill will have no impact upon the department.
- According to the Secretary of State (SOS), this bill would not have a fiscal impact for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 (FY14-15).
- The SOS indicates that there could be reduced expenditures in FY13-14 for counties depending upon the enactment date of the bill. To the extent the bill passed on or before April 11, 2014, the 59 counties holding primary elections in May 2014 could publish in a newspaper of general circulation their early voting hours of operation within the required 25-day period before holding such primary elections. Any counties electing to

close on the Saturday (April 19, 2014) following Good Friday (April 18, 2014) could then do so and realize reduced expenditures associated with being open one fewer day.

- Based on the results of a survey conducted by the SOS, the permissive decrease in local government expenditures for county election offices that indicated it would close on the Saturday (April 19, 2014) following Good Friday is estimated to be \$19,000.
- To the extent this bill is enacted after April 11, 2014, there would be no decrease in local government expenditures in FY13-14 or FY14-15. A Saturday after a Good Friday during the early voting period does not occur again until 2022 (FY21-22).

### **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/rnc